

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 1, 4 and 14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apron for a front end of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a substantially C-shaped, unitary apron member having a depending front portion, the apron member defining at least one integrally formed accessory attachment mount for mounting at least one engine accessory of the motor vehicle thereto; and

a substantially C-shaped apron rail attached to a top end of the apron member and configured for attachment to a bulkhead of the motor vehicle, in order that said C-shaped apron member and said C-shaped apron rail attached to said C-shaped apron member generally extend around the motor of said motor vehicle and include a pair of wheel wells between said bulkhead and said depending front portion coupled to said bulkhead.

2. (Original) The apron of claim 1, wherein the apron member is formed of molded plastic material and the apron rail is made of aluminum alloy.

3. (Original) The apron of claim 1, wherein the at least one accessory attachment mount comprises a plurality of openings defined in the front portion.

4. (Currently Amended) An apron assembly for a front end of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a substantially C-shaped, unitary apron member having a depending front portion, the apron member defining at least one integrally formed accessory attachment mount;

a substantially C-shaped apron rail attached to a top end of the apron member and configured for attachment to a bulkhead of the motor vehicle, in order that said C-shaped apron member and said C-shaped apron rail attached to said C-shaped apron member generally extend around the motor of said motor vehicle and include a pair of wheel wells between said bulkhead and said depending front portion coupled to said bulkhead; and

at least one engine accessory of the motor vehicle attached to the apron member at the at least one accessory attachment mount.

5. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the apron member is formed of molded plastic material and the apron rail is made of aluminum alloy.

6. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the apron rail is configured for mechanical attachment to the bulkhead.

7. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the at least one accessory attachment mount comprises a plurality of openings defined in the front portion.

8. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the engine accessory is a radiator and cooling fan assembly and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the radiator and cooling fan assembly supported in the opening.

9. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the engine accessory is an air conditioning condenser and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the air conditioning condenser supported in the opening.

10. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the engine accessory is a transmission oil cooler and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the transmission oil cooler supported in the opening.

11. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, wherein the engine accessory is a battery and the accessory attachment mount is an integrally formed battery hold-down, the battery supported in the battery hold-down.

12. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, further comprising fenders attached to the apron rail.

13. (Original) The apron assembly of claim 4, further comprising headlights attached to the front portion of the apron member.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling an apron assembly for a front end of a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

providing a bulkhead;

providing a unitary apron member having a depending front portion, the apron member defining at least one integrally formed accessory attachment mount;

attaching an apron rail to a top end of the apron member; ~~and~~

attaching at least one engine accessory of the motor vehicle to the apron member at the at least one accessory attachment mount; and

connecting said apron member and said apron rail attached to said apron member to said bulkhead in order that said apron assembly generally extends around the motor of said motor vehicle.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the engine accessory is a radiator and cooling fan assembly and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the method further comprising the step of supporting the radiator and cooling fan assembly in the opening.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the engine accessory is an air conditioning condenser and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the method further comprising the step of supporting the air conditioning condenser in the opening.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the engine accessory is a transmission oil cooler and the accessory attachment mount is an opening defined in the front portion of the apron member, the method further comprising the step of supporting the transmission oil cooler in the opening.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the engine accessory is a battery and the accessory attachment mount is an integrally formed battery hold-down, the method further comprising the step of supporting the battery in the battery hold-down.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of attaching fenders to the apron rail.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of attaching headlights to the front portion of the apron member.